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General Assembly

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Agenda item 121

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/573)*]

58/272. Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005

The General Assembly,

I

Information and communication technology strategy

Recalling its resolution 57/304 of 15 April 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Information and communication technology strategy: implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/304 of 15 April 2003",[1]

Having also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Managing information in the United Nations system organizations: management information systems",[2] the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] and welcomes the steps being taken to address all requests contained in its resolution 57/304;

2. *Reiterates* the need to indicate the return on investment for planned and proposed major projects in terms that are as quantitative as possible;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[2] the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

[1] A/58/377

[2] See A/58/82.

[3] See A/58/82/Add.1.

[4] See A/58/389.

II

Comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat

Recalling its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001 and its decision 57/574 of 20 December 2002,

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat[5] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

III

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2004[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Approves* the request for a subvention by the General Assembly of 227,600 United States dollars for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for 2004 from the approved regular budget of the United Nations, on the understanding that no additional appropriation would be required under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;[9]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-ninth session on the continuing need for a subvention to the Institute, taking into account previous reports and any relevant decisions on the question of subventions;

IV

Improving and modernizing the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to accommodate adequately major meetings and conferences

Recalling its resolutions 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001 and 57/283 B of 15 April 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on improving and modernizing the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in

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[5] A/58/398.

[6] See A/58/7/Add.5. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[7] A/C.5/58/3.

[8] A/58/7/Add.4. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[9] A/58/6 (Sect. 4). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

order to accommodate adequately major meetings and conferences[10] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[11]

1. *Authorizes* the modernization of the existing conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

2. *Decides* to appropriate related resources under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005,[12] to finance the modernization of the existing conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the amount of 1,032,000 United States dollars as a charge against the contingency fund;

3. *Also decides* to approve the utilization of an amount of 1,020,000 dollars for the modernization of the existing conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to be financed within the available balance of the construction-in-progress account;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the experience gained from operating the modernized conference facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi during the biennium 2006–2007;

V

Special political missions: estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[13] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[14]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council;[13]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report,[14] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Decides* not to endorse the observation of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 26 of its report;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further explore synergies and complementarities between various missions and other relevant entities of the United Nations in order to ensure efficiency and optimum use of resources and to report thereon in the context of future budget proposals on special political missions;

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[10] A/58/530.

[11] A/58/7/Add.6. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[12] A/58/6 (Sect. 33). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

[13] A/C.5/58/20.

[14] A/58/7/Add.18. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to expand the treatment of larger missions with a view to providing a level of information similar to that contained in the proposed budgets of peacekeeping operations, taking into account relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Approves* a charge of 133,119,500 United States dollars for the 17 special political missions presented in table 1, section II, of the report of the Secretary-General,[13] emanating from decisions taken or to be taken by the Security Council, against the provision of 169,431,700 dollars for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;[15]

7. *Also approves* a further charge of 2,172,400 dollars for the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 January to 4 February 2004, consequent to the adoption of resolution 58/275 of 23 December 2003, against the provision of 169,431,700 dollars for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

8. *Further approves* a charge of 7,185,000 dollars for the three special political missions presented in table 1, section I, of the report of the Secretary-General,[13] emanating from decisions taken or to be taken by the General Assembly, against the provision of 169,431,700 dollars for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

VI

Joint Inspection Unit

1. *Approves* the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 in the amount of 4,900,800 United States dollars;[16]

2. *Decides* to take action on the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for 2005 in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

VII

International Civil Service Commission

Approves a gross budget for the International Civil Service Commission for the biennium 2004–2005 in the amount of 14,724,100 United States dollars;[a]

VIII

Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

Approves the gross budget for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator for the biennium 2004–2005 in the amount of 86,375,800 United States dollars;[16]

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[15] A/58/6 (Sect. 3). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6.*

[16] See A/58/6 (Sect. 31) (for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*), A/58/528, and A/58/7/Add.11 (for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*).

IX

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2003[17] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[18]

2. *Notes* that additional financial requirements for the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in the amount of 58,[illegible] United States dollars are no longer required;

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to review its decision 2003/264 of 23 July 2003 regarding the arrangement of the Social Forum, invites the Council, in this regard, to hold the Social Forum immediately before the sessions of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and decides that the related resources of 12,800 dollars will be a charge against the contingency fund;

4. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council to review its decision 2003/269 of 23 July 2003 with a view to examining the possibility that additional meetings of the Commission on Human Rights may not be required in connection with its sixtieth session, requests the Secretary-General to provide such conference services as might be required consequent to Council decision 2003/269, as reviewed, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the related expenditures in the context of his first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, and decides that an amount of 193,800 dollars shall be set aside in the contingency fund in the event that additional requirements arise from providing such services;

X

Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Having considered the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,[19] the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board[20] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[21]

1. *Concurs* with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the

[17] A/C.5/58/10.

[18] A/58/7/Add.8. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[19] A/58/214 and Corr.1.

[20] A/C.5/58/27.

[21] A/58/7/Add.9 and A/58/7/Add.19. For the final texts, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund[22] and on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board;[23]

2. *Approves* expenses, chargeable directly to the Fund, totalling 80,770,800 United States dollars net for the biennium 2004–2005 and no change in the initial appropriation of 74,384,900 dollars net for the biennium 2002–2003 for the administration of the Fund;

3. *Also approves* an additional amount of 1,504,500 dollars above the level of resources set out in section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005[24] as the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund;

4. *Authorizes* the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for the biennium 2004–2005 by an amount not exceeding 200,000 dollars;

XI

Special political missions

Notes that an unallocated balance of 26,954,800 United States dollars remains against the provision of 169,431,700 dollars for special political missions;[25]

XII

Proposed programme budget for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

Having considered the programme budget proposals for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO for the biennium 2004–2005[26] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[27]

Decides to approve resources in the amount of 23,472,200 United States dollars proposed for the biennium 2004–2005 under section 13, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;[26]

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[22] A/58/7/Add.9. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[23] A/58/7/Add.19. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[24] A/58/6 (Sect. 1). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

[25] See A/C.5/58/33.

[26] A/58/6 (Sect. 13) and Add.1. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

[27] A/58/7/Add.7. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

XIII

Effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation[28] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[29]

Takes note of the revised estimates arising from recosting due to the effects of changes in the rates of exchange and inflation;

XIV

Financial viability of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research[30] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[31]

1. *Decides* to cancel the debt of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in respect of rent and maintenance charges in the amount of 321,184 United States dollars;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to rationalize the financial structure of the Institute, including through the possible application of a consistent programme support rate to the Special Purpose Grants Fund in order to bring it in line with the standard rate applied by the United Nations, and decides to revert to the question at its fifty-ninth session;

XV

Cost implications of providing more predictable and adequate conference services to the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

Recalling its resolutions 56/242 of 24 December 2001 and 57/283 B of 15 April 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the cost implications of providing more predictable and adequate conference services to the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States[32] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the cost implications of providing more predictable and adequate conference services to the meetings of

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[28] A/58/528.

[29] A/58/7/Add.11. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[30] A/58/544.

[31] A/58/7/Add.10. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[32] A/58/397.

regional and other major groupings of Member States[32] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] and notes in this regard that there would be no effect on the budget estimates of the United Nations;

XVI

Contingency fund

Notes that a balance of 11,314,500 United States dollars remains in the contingency fund;[33]

XVII

Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

Recalling its resolutions 56/288 of 27 June 2002 and 57/292 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)[34] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[35]

1. *Reiterates* paragraph 2 of its resolution 56/288, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of conference and support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee without adversely affecting other conference services;

2. *Decides* to appropriate an amount of 8,193,000 United States dollars to support the meeting requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the biennium 2004–2005 in the programme budget as follows: 7,958,900 dollars under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services,[36] and 234,100 dollars under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services;[37]

XVIII

Development Account

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account: third progress report",[38] and concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon;[6]

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[33] See A/C.5/58/34.

[34] A/C.5/58/23.

[35] A/58/7/Add.17. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[36] A/58/6 (Sect. 2). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

[37] A/58/6 (Sect. 29D). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

[38] A/58/404.

XIX

Additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

2. *Notes* that the effects on the budget of inflation and currency fluctuations can be both positive and negative;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations[39] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of establishing a reserve fund to utilize currency gains and to report thereon, through the Advisory Committee, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

XX

Proportion of General Service staff to Professional staff in the regional commissions

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the proportion of General Service staff to Professional staff in the regional commissions[40] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

XXI

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships;[41]

XXII

Capital master plan

Takes note of the first annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,[42] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the capital master plan for the period from January to July 2003,[43] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan[44] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[45]

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[39] A/58/400.

[40] A/58/403.

[41] A/58/173.

[42] A/58/599.

[43] A/58/342.

[44] A/58/321.

[45] A/58/7/Add.15. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

XXIII

Administration and management of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the administration and management of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[46] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[47]

XXIV

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2003

Recalling its resolution 58/251 of 23 December 2003, entitled "United Nations common system", in particular section I.D concerning hazard pay,

Takes note of the statement of the Secretary-General[48] on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2003[49] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[50]

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[46] A/58/569.

[47] A/58/7/Add.12. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[48] A/58/378.

[49] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/58/30).

[50] A/58/7/Add.2. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.